

สัญลักษณ์ Legend

- อำเภอ Amphoe (District)
- ★ สถานที่ท่องเที่ยว Tourist Attraction
- ✈ สนามบิน Airport
- แม่น้ำ Stream, River
- ทางหลวง Highway
- เส้นขอบเขตจังหวัด Province Boundary
- เส้นขอบเขตอำเภอ District Boundary



9 4.5 0 9 กิโลเมตร
Kilometers

สถานที่ท่องเที่ยว Tourist Attraction

- 1 ปราสาทบ้านพินนา Prasat Ban Phanna
- 2 วัดถ้ำอภัยดำรงธรรม หรือวัดถ้ำพวง และพิพิธภัณฑ์อาจารย์วัน อุตตโม
Wat Tham Apai Damrong Tham or Wat Tham Phuang
and the Museum of Archan Wan Uttamo
- 3 อุทยานแห่งชาติภูผาเหล็ก Phu Pha Lek National Park
- 4 พระธาตุศรีมงคล Phra That Si Mongkhon
- 5 เขื่อนน้ำอูน Nam Oun Dam
- 6 วัดคำประมง Wat Kham Pramong
- 7 พิพิธภัณฑ์อาจารย์ฝั้น อาจาโร Archan Fan Archaro Museum
- 8 พระธาตุภูเพ็ก Phra That Phu Pek
- 9 วัดถ้ำขาม หรือ ภูขาม Wat Tham Kham or Phu Kham
- 10 ศูนย์วัฒนธรรมไทยใต้ Thai So Cultural Centre
- 11 พระตำหนักภูพานราชนิเวศน์ Phu Phan Ratchaniwet Palace
- 12 อุทยานแห่งชาติภูพาน Phu Phan National Park

แผนที่ท่องเที่ยวจังหวัดสกลนคร SAKON NAKHON TOURIST MAP



- 13 ปราสาทพระธาตุนารายณ์เจงเวง Phra That Narai Cheng Weng Stupa
- 14 พระธาตุเชิงชุม Phra That Choeng Chum
- 15 อุทยานแห่งชาติภูผายล Phu Pha Yon National Park
- 16 ภาพรอยสลักผาสามพันปีที่ภูผายล
The three thousands years old cliff carving at Phu Pha Yon
- 17 ชาวไทย บ้านโนนหอม Phu Thai Ethnic group at Ban Non Hom
- 18 เขื่อนน้ำพุง Nam Phung Dam



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THAILAND

Sakon Nakhon



Parade of Christmas Star Festival



1672

TOURIST HOTLINE

08.00-20.00 hrs. Everyday

Tourist information by fax available 24 hrs.

Website: www.tourismthailand.org

E-mail: info@tat.or.th





Wax Castle

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

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www.youtube.com-TATnakhonphanom
Areas of Responsibility : Nakhon Phanom, Sakon Nakhon
and Mukdahan

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Phrathat Choeng Chum

SAKON NAKHON

Thai Term Glossary

Amphoe	: District
Ao	: Bay
Ban	: Village
Hat	: Beach
Khao	: Mountain
Ko	: Island
Laem	: Cape
Maenam	: River
Mueang	: Town or City
Muko	: Group of Islands (Archipelago)
Namtok	: Waterfall
Phu	: Mountain
Tambon	: Sub-district
Tham	: Cave
Ubosot or Bot	: Ordination hall in a temple
Wihan	: Image hall in a temple
Wat	: Temple

Note : *English spelling here given tries to approximate Thai pronunciation. Posted signs may be spelled differently. When seeking help from a Thai for direction, point to the Thai spellings given after each place name.*

Sakon Nakhon is a Buddhist town with five Buddhist stupas. Its history can be dated back for three thousand years. Legend says that Nong Han town, or presently Sakon Nakhon, was built in 11th century when Khmer ruled this region. When the Khmer lost its power, the town was under the rules of Lanxang or Laotian Kingdom. It was renamed into “Mueang Chiang Mai Nongharn”. When the town was under Siamese Kingdom, it was renamed again into “Sakon Thawapi”. In 1830, during the reign of King Rama III, it was named “Sakon Nakhon”.

Sakon Nakhon Province is 647 kms from Bangkok. It acquires total area of 9,605 sq. kms. and has 18 Amphoes including Mueang Sakon Nakhon, Kusuman, Kut Bak, Phanna Nikhom, Waritchaphum, Song Dao, Sawang Daen Din, Wanon Niwat, Akat Amnuai, Ban Muang, Phang Khon, Kham Ta Kla, Nikhom Nam Un, Tao Ngoi, Khok Si Suphan, Charoen Sin, Phon Na Kaeo, and Phu Phan.

Boundary

North	Connects to Nong Khai and Nakhon Phanom
South	Connects to Kalasin and Mukdahan
East	Connects to Nakhon Phanom
West	Connects to Udon Thani and Kalasin.

HOW TO GET THERE

By Car : From Bangkok, takes highway 2 to Saraburi and turn right into highway 2, via Nakhon Ratchasima, Amphoe Ban Phai of Khon Kaen to Ban Tha Phra. Get into highway 23 via Maha Sarakham and Kalasin, then use highway 213 to Sakon Nakhon.

By Bus : Transport Co, and Private Bus Service provider operate daily service from Bangkok to Sakon Nakhon. Buses leave Northeast Bus Terminal (Mo Chit 2) daily. For more information, call 0 2936 0657, 0-2936 1180, 0-2936 2852-66 or visit www.transport.co.th

By Train : State Railway of Thailand operates daily train service from Bangkok to Udon Thani, where tourist can catch routine bus to Sakon Nakhon, 159 kms away. For more information, call 1690, 0 2220 4444 or visit www.railway.co.th

By Plane : Daily services are offered from Bangkok to Sakonnakhon. Reservation can be made at Nok Air Tel. 0 2900 9955 or 1318 www.nokair.com
Sakon Nakhon Airport Tel. 0 4271 5245-6

Traveling inside Sakon Nakhon can be made by means of small bus, tricycle and motor tricycle. Price must be agreed prior to entering any services.

Distance from Amphoe Mueang to other Amphoes

Khok Si Suphan	22	kms.
Tao Ngoi	28	kms.
Phu Phan	33	kms.
Phon Na Kaeo	35	kms.
Phanna Nikhom	39	kms.
Kusuman	40	kms.
Phang Khon	54	kms.
Kut Bak	56	kms.

Akat Amnuai	57	kms.
Waritchaphum	69	kms.
Sawang Daen Din	84	kms.
Wanon Niwat	85	kms.
Chareon Sin	90	kms.
Nikhom Nam Un	99	kms.
Kham Ta Kla	109	kms.
Song Dao	109	kms.
Ban Muang	120	kms.

Distance from Sakon Nakhon to nearby provinces.

Nakhon Phanom	93	kms.
Mukdahan	119	kms.
Kalasin	128	kms.
Udon Thani	159	kms.

ATTRACTIONS

Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon (อำเภอเมืองสกลนคร)

Phrathat Choeng Chum (พระธาตุเชิงชุม)

Situated in Wat Phrathat Choeng Chum Worawihan, rectangular stupa is 24 metre high and decorated with 3.75 kgs. golden umbrella. The stupa, or Phrathat, has four doors put inside is fill with stone. It is built to cover footprints of four Buddhas namely Phra Kakusantha, Phra Konakhom, Phra Katsapa, and Phra Khodom (The present Lord Buddha). Its history is unclear, however, Phrathat is considered sacred icon for Sakon Nakhon. Next to the Phrathat is the chapel that houses Luang Po Ong Saen, a sacred Buddha image of the province. On Wan Phra or Buddhist Day, lots of Buddhist always pay homage to the Buddha image at night. The temple holds annual celebration between the 9th and 15th date of waxing moon of January.

Nong Han (หนองหาร)

The huge and famous lake of Thailand acquires total area of 123 sq. kms. It is fed by many streams before supplying to Kam Stream, tributary of Mekong that runs into the big river at Amphoe That Phanom, Nakhon Phanom Province. At the depth between 3-8 metres, the lake facilitates agriculture, livestock farming and fishery of the people around it. There

are more than 20 islets in the lake such as Ko Don Sawan, the biggest islet where deserted temple and ancient Buddha images are located. Lush forest on the islet makes it habitat for many birds. There are pavilions of Ko Kaeo and Ko Don Sakham where tourist can take a break. Ko Don Sathung is surrounded with golden freshwater weed which glows under sunshine.

Somdet Phra Srinagarindra Park (สวนสมเด็จพระศรีนครินทร์)

Located next to Nong Han, in Tambon That Choeng Chum, the beautiful park acquires total area of 272,000 sq.m. Mother Princess, Phra Srinagarindra, has presided over the opening ceremony on November 9, 1987. The park's compound



include an ancient pond, called Sa Phang Thong, which was built in the same period as Phra That Choeng Chum. The park comprises beautiful flower and tree, jungle area, water park, rock garden, exercising area and 69 metres high fountain. The park is open for public use in botanical study. It is open between 4 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The 60th anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen Park

(สวนเทิดพระเกียรติ ๖๐ พรรษา มหาราชินี)

Located at Ban Nong Bua Yai, the park covers 128,000 sq.m. area of Don Kham and Don Langka. The park comprises botanical garden, pavilion, fountain, viewpoint and bird sanctuary. It is nice picnic place for Sakon Nakhon people.





Phrathat Dum

How to get there: The park is 3 kilometres from Sakon Nakhon city. Take highway 22 (Sakon Nakhon-Ban That and turn right. The park is 200 metres off the main road.

Freshwater Fish Aquarium (สถานแสดงพันธุ์ปลาน้ำจืด)

Located on Sai Sawang Rd., the Freshwater Fishery Station, the aquarium features different species of endemic freshwater fish species in Isan. It is opens on weekday, from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Sakon Nakhon Cultural Centre (ศูนย์วัฒนธรรมจังหวัดสกลนคร)

Located in Rajabaht Sakon Nakhon University, Nitayo Rd., Tambon Na Waeng, the centre features tools, belongings, history and document of different ethnic group. More information can be acquired at 0 4271 1274. The centre is open from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Phrathat Dum (พระธาตุดุม)

The stupa is situated in Wat Phrathat Dum, Ban That Dum, Tambon Ngio Don, some 5 kms. from Sakon Nakhon City towards Phattana Suksa School. The lone Stupa is built with laterite in the same period as Phrathat Narai Cheng Weng, but the stupa is smaller without base. Four lintels are found on each side. The lintel featuring God Vishnu in reclining position is placed on the northern arch. Furthermore, there are carving regarding gods riding different animals over the Rahu. The stupa, in Bapuan Khmer art, can be dated back to the 11th -12th Century.

The museum of Archan Man Purithattha Thera

(พิพิธภัณฑ์บริวารอาจารย์มั่น ภูริทัตตเถระ)

The museum, with contemporary design in terra cotta building, is located in Wat Pa Suthawat, opposite to City Hall. The museum houses bronze statue of Achan Man Purithatto in meditation posture and the glass box that houses his ash that turns into crystal. The display, including his tools, is placed in marble altar and his history is shown nearby.

Achan Man Purithatto is a famous Buddhist monk. Born in Kaenkaeo family, in Tambon Khong Chiam, Ubon Ratchathani, he was a novice when he was 15 and entered monkhood at 22 at Wat Leap, Ubon Ratchathani. Achan Man always practice meditation on the trip to remote area and he had many followers such as Luang Pu Fan Acharo, Luang Pu Khao



Alanayo, Luang Pu Waen Suchino. Achan Man moved to stay at Wat Pa Suthawat and passed away on November 11, 1949. Furthermore, the Museum of Luang Pu Lui is located also in the temple's compound. The museum is built to house ashes of Luang Pu Lui (1901-1989). This famous monk in Wipatsana is follower of Achan Man. He loved to travel around until his last day in his life. His Majesty the King presided over his funeral and mentioned "a pagoda to house his ashes should be built in Wat Pa Suthawat, where the pagoda housing ashes



The museum of Archan Man Purithattha Thera

of Achan Man is located. For they can stay close together." His Majesty the King has designed the pagoda.

Sapan Khom or Sapan Hin (สะพานขอม หรือสะพานหิน)

The small historical site is located on Nittayo Rd, at Km. 161 of highway 22. It is considered as an ancient bridge to link Sakon Nakhon and the countryside as this area once was swamp. The present bridge is made from laterite, replacing the old one that was removed for road construction.



Phrathat Narai Cheng Weng (พระธาตุนารายณ์เจงเวง)

Located in Wat Phrathat Narai Cheng Weng, Ban That, the lone stupa is built from sandstone on laterite base and carved beautifully. Its lintel feature Lord Krishna killing Lion in Bapuan Khmer art. The Art appears on this stupa is quite similar to many Khmer ruins found in Isan. Stone Carving on door arch and window remain very clear. Legend says this stupa was built by women, who competed with the men group that built Phra That Phu Phek. According to its design and art, it is assumed to be from 11th - 12th century.

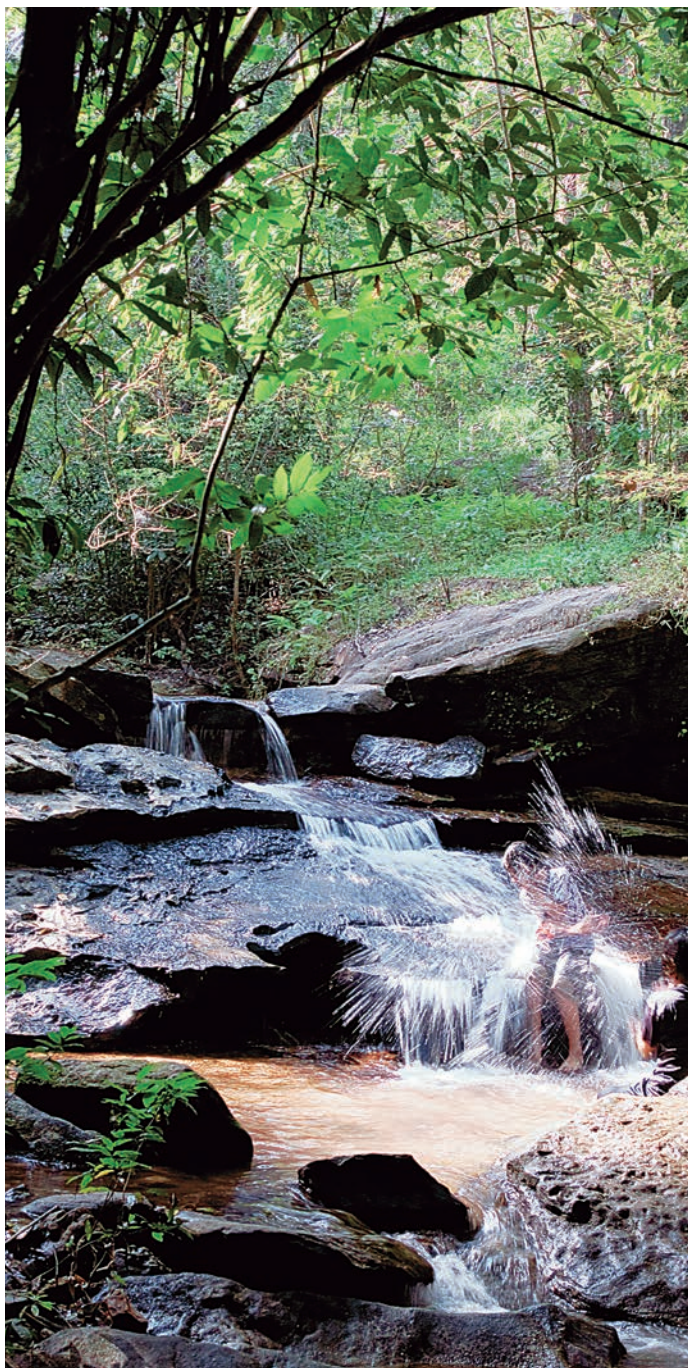
Annual celebration of Phra That Narai Cheng Weng is held from 11th - 15th date of waxing moon in March.



Phrathat Narai Cheng Weng

How to get there: The stupa is 5 kms. from Sakon Nakhon City. Take highway 22 to Ban That, a bit before bypass intersection. The stupa is 400 metres from the main road, on the left.

Phu Phan Ratchaniwet Palace (พระตำหนักภูพานราชนิเวศน์) Located on the mid of Phu Phan Mountain Range, the palace is the royal residence of Their Majesties the King, and Queen and royal family during the mission in Northeast Thailand. The mansion is located amidst shady forest and beautiful garden. The palace is open daily for public visit when it is not in use. Visitor must get permission from the Office of His Majesty's Principal Private Secretary, Grand Palace, Na Phra Lan Rd, Bangkok 10200.



Namtok Kham Hom

How to get there : Take highway 213 for 13 kms. out of Sakon Nakhon and turn right.

Phu Phan National Park (อุทยานแห่งชาติภูพาน)

The park acquires total area of 655 sq. kms. in Amphoe Mueang, Phanna Nikhom, Kut Bak and Phu Phan of Sakon Nakhon as well as Amphoe Somdet and Huai Phueng of Kalasin. The park's official is located on Phu Phan Range. Established on October 29, 1982, the park features limestone mountain and different forest such as deciduous dipterocarp forest, jungle rain forest, or mixed deciduous forest. Wildlife found in the park include langur, civet, and slow loris. Its attractions in the park include.

HISTORICAL ATTRACTIONS

Phrathat Phu Phek (พระธาตุภูเพ็ก)

The Ancient Khmer Ruins was built from sandstone, standing on laterite base.

Tham Seri Thai (ถ้ำเสรีไทย)

The cave is some 4.5 kms. from the park's headquarter. During WWII, Seri Thai has used this cave for arm and food storage as it is well camouflaged by lush vegetation. A secret airfield is found nearby.

NATURAL ATTRACTIONS

Phu Phan Mountain Range (เทือกเขาภูพาน)

The famous range is quite well known, however, handful of people can actually reach its natural beauty, particularly at the border of Sakon Nakhon and Kalasin.

Namtok Kham Hom and Kong Ping Ngu (น้ำตกคำหอม และ ไค้บั้ง)

The falls is some 14 kms from Sakon Nakhon city. Namtok Kham Hom is situated close to Namtok Tad Tone and the royal palace. Nearby are many waterfalls such as Heo Sinchai, Samlan, Sao Hai, Pha Hin Son. Entrance to Namtok Kham Hom, on Sakon Nakhon-Kalasin Rd, is very winding like the grilled snake, or Kong Ping Ngu in Thai. On the road side, there is the country's biggest road mark, decorated around with beautiful flowers. The waterfall can be accessed safely, however, it is good to visit during rainy season only.

Pha Nang Moen and Lan Sao Ae (ผานางเม่น และลานสาวเอ้)

The cliff and plain is 700 metres and 2 kms., via Eng forest, from the park's head quarter respectively. Pha Nang Moen is a cliff top terrace that allows visitor to enjoy the view at the western side. It is quite a nice place for camping and watch sunset view. Below the cliff, there is a track leading to Lan Sao Ae, literary means the place for the lady to show beautiful attire. The rock plain is situated amidst wilderness and towering cliff. During August to October, wild flower will blossom and allow visitor to enjoy the colourful scenery.

Pha Sawoei (ผาเสวย)

Situated in Kalasin, the cliff heading south is the place once His Majesty the King and visited and had lunch.

Namtok Huai Yai (น้ำตกห้วยใหญ่)

The falls is 12 kms. from the park's headquarter. It cascades via several steps amidst dense jungle.

Namtok Pricha Suksan (น้ำตกปรีชาสุขันต์)

The 12 metres wide falls cascade through mountain foot, some part looked like slider. It is quite safe and tourist can enjoy swimming here all the year round. It is accessible easily by car. Situated by Sakon Nakhon-Udon Thani Rd., the falls is 24 kms. from Sakon Nakhon city and 50 kms. from the park head quarter.

Stone Arch (Thang Phi Phan) (สะพานหินธรรมชาติ (ทางผีผ่าน))

The stone arch, 1.5 metres wide and 8 metres long, bridges two groups of rock together. So, its beneath becomes a wonderful shelter.

There is nature trail from Pha Nang Moen, Lan Sao Ae, Kaeng Khi Ling, via mixed deciduous forest and tropical evergreen forest. Tourist can learn about forest in the park, fern, sandstone, moss and lichen, Lan Sao Ae and friendly trees. It take a hour to get through such one km. trail.

Accommodations for tourist are available. For more information, contact Phu Phan National Park, Tambon Huai Yang, Amphoe Mueang, Sakon Nakhon 47000, or call 0 4270 3044, 0 4272 6616, 08 1263 5029. More information about accommodation can be acquired also at the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department, Bang Khen, Bangkok or call 0 2562 0760, or visit www.dnp.go.th.

How to get there : Take highway 213 to Km. 10-11. The park is 25 kms. from Sakon Nakhon city.

Phu Thai Ethnic group at Ban Non Hom (ชาวภูไทบ้านโนนหอม)

Phu Thai Ethnic Group has immigrated from the left side of Mekong River to settle down here since over a century ago. Anyway, they can maintain their unique tradition. Tourist can enjoy Palaeng, or dinner in traditional style, and traditional performance by contacting Marketing Demonstration Centre, Ban Non Hom, 5 Mu 2 Tambon Non Hom, Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon 47000.

How to get there : From Sakon Nakhon city, take highway 223 for 13 kms and turn right. The village is 2 kms. away.



Phu Thai Ethnic group

The three thousands years old cliff carving at Phu

Pha Yon (ภาพรอยสลักผาสามพันปีที่ถูกผายล)

Phu Pha Yon, the mountain in the compound of meditation centre, Ban Na Phang, Tambon Kok Pla Sio, 38 kms. from Sakon Nakhon city, houses cliff carving featuring lifestyle of Thai people in the pre-historical period. The cliff carving was created by using solid tool to mark the cliff wall in the shapes of animals, people and farm. Around the cliff is beautiful nature.

How to get there : From Amphoe Tao Ngoi, take Tao Ngoi-Si Wicha Rd. for 5 kms., and turn into Ban Muang-Na Ang Rd.. travel for 35 kms. via Ban Phon Bok, Ban Phon Paeng, to Ban Na Phang. From Ban Na Phang, take asphalted road to the cliff where stairs will lead you to the crest. Stone chairs are available at rest areas on the way.

Phu Phan Royal Development Study Center (ศูนย์ศึกษาพัฒนาภูพาน อันเนื่องมาจากพระราชดำริ)

is located at Huai Yang subdistrict in Muang district, take Highway 213 (Kalasin - Sakon Nakhon), then turn right at Ban Na Nok Khao. (Prior to the city of Nakhon 10 kms), Center for Development of the Phu Phan. Established as a representative of the Northeast in the study of experimental research and development in all aspects of agriculture. Nature as a living museum. Its stated goal : To introduce appropriate Development and occupational training for people in the northeastern region. With access to learning and can be of professions. The exhibition is due to the initiative. Farm. "Three of the Phu Phan black magic" is Tajima cows, pigs and Phu Phan black chickens. Mushroom farm. Silk farming, farm dairy cows, deer, turkey, fish farming, rice field demonstrations and beautiful flower gardens. You can also buy herbs and processed agricultural products. For information call 0 4274 7458.

Lotus Garden at Nong Han Noy Park (สวนบัว อุทยานหนองหานอ้อยเฉลิมพระเกียรติ)

Kasetsart University Sakon Nakhon Campus. Located on Highway 22, Sakon Nakhon - Nakhon Phanom Sakon is only 15 km away from downtown is the place to gather lotus species from around the world in the tranquil atmosphere and cool.



Lotus Garden at Nong Han Noy Park

There is also an exhibition about the lotus and water lilly. Lotus drawings and photos of winning the contest. Allows visitors to see.



Amphoe Phanna Nikhom

Phrathat Phu Phek (พระธาตุภูเพ็ก)

The stupa is located in Tambon Na Hua Bo. Pilgrim needs to climbs 491 steps to reach the stupa that is located on the peak of Phu Phan Range. The sandstone stupa was built on rectangular laterite base. The front of the stupa connects to a pavilion whose first floor is 1.58 metres high and second floor is another 0.70 metre high. The stupa is 7.67 metres high. But this stupa was not completed and it has not any roof and crown. Phrathat Phu Phek is believed to be built in the 11th century to serves as Hindu temple. It was adapted to serve Buddhism later.



Phrathat Phu Phek

According to Urangkhatat Legends, or legend of Phrathat Phanom, Phrathat Phu Phek was built by a male group that compete with the female group who built Phrathat Narai Cheng Weng. The stupa was built to house Lord Buddha's relic. The male team stopped the construction when they were fooled by the woman team that set "Phek Star". So, this stupa was named Phrathat Phu Phek.

How to get there : From Sakon Nakhon city, take highway 22 for 22 kms. and turn right for another 14 kms.

Wat Tham Kham or Phu Kham (วัดถ้ำขาม หรือภูขาม)

Located on a mountain called Phu Kham, or Phu Kham Kham, part of Phu Phan Range, the temple once was meditation place of Achan Fan Acharo who stayed here until 1964. He moved to stay at Wat Pa Udom Somphon when he got sick. The temple also houses ashes of Phra Achan Thet Thetrangsi which pilgrims always come to pay homage to.

How to get there : Take highway 22 for 22 kms., turn left and keep going for other 10 kms. The temple share entrance with Phra That Phu Phek, but turn right and keep going for other 30 kms.

Achan Fan Acharo Museum (พิพิธภัณฑ์อาจารย์ฝั้น อาจาโร)

The museum is located in Wat Pa Udom Somphon, Tambon Phanna Nikhon. The museum, in the shape of pagoda and three folds of lotus, houses life-size of Achan Fan is sitting posture with stick in his hand. The other exhibits include ashes in glass box and tools, as well as his history.

The famous Buddhist monk, Achan Fan Acharo was born on August 20, 1899, in Suwannarong Family, at Tambon Ban Muang Khai, Amphoe Phanna Nikhom. At the age of 19, he ordained as novice at Wat Phon Thong. A year later, he entered monkhood and follow Achan Man Phurithatto.

How to get there : Take highway 22 and turn right, pass Amphoe Phanna Nikhom for 2 kms.

Wat Kham Pramong (วัดคำประมง)

The temple is located at Ban Kham Pramong, Tambon Sawang. Its building are all in modern design. This temple is served as meditation place for Phra Kru Santi Worayan (Luang Pu Sim Phuttharo), a famous monk of Thailand.

How to get there : Take highway 22 for 37 kms. and turn right, head for Amphoe Akat Amnuai for other 10 kms.

Amphoe Phang Khon

Nam Un Dam (เขื่อนน้ำอูน)

The clay dam, managed by the Royal Irrigation Department, is built to reserve water from Nam Un, a tributary of Songkram River which is originated from Phu Phan Range. Its reservoir can well support irrigation and recreation. The reservoir is in the hug of Phu Phan Range and beautiful forest. Close to the dam is a small waterfall that is created by dam's outlet.



Achan Fan Acharo Museum



Phrathat Si Mongkhon

Amphoe Sawang Daen Din

Prasart Ban Phanna (ปราสาทบ้านพันนา)

Located at Ban Phanna, 70 kms. from Sakon Nakhon city via Sakon Nakhon-Udon Thai Rd., the Khmer ruins has lone stupa with rectangular laterite base and Barai around. It is believed to be built in the same period as Phrathat Phu Phek.

Amphoe Waritchaphum

Phrathat Si Mongkhon (พระธาตุศรีมงคล)

Located at Wat Phra That Si Mongkhon, Tambon Ban That, The rectangular pagoda is decorated in modern design and stucco. Its base contain decoration in terra cotta featuring history of Lord Buddha. The modern design is the renovation of the old pagoda which has only laterite core. This pagoda is the sacred icon of Amphoe Waritchaphum. The temple can be accessed by car.

How to get there: Take Phang Khon-Waritchaphum Rd., the temple is 200 metres from Amphoe Waritchaphum office.

Tham Phra Phutthasaiyat (Tham Phra Thong or Phu Pha Thong) ถ้ำพระพุทธไสยาสน์ (ถ้ำพระทอง หรือภูผาทอง)

The cave is situated at Tambon Ko Khiao, 9 kms. from Amphoe Waritchaphum. The cave is adapted into pavilion. Around the cave, there are many rocks in different formations.

Phu Ang So (ภูอ่างศอ)

The mountain is in Tambon Kham Bo, 18 kms. for Amphoe Waritchaphum. It is a nice place for camping. In winter, it is as beautiful as Phu Kradueng.

Amphoe Song Dao

Wat Tham Aphai Damrong Tham or Wat Tham Phuang and Achan Wan Uttamo Museum (วัดถ้ำอภัยดำรงธรรม หรือ วัดถ้ำพวง และพิพิธภัณฑ์อาจารย์วัน อุตตโม)

This is a 2-storeyed marble building with a cruciform plan. The lower storey features a room with paintings depicting the birth and life of the revered Phra Achan Wan Uttamo. The upper storey houses a life-like statue of the monk seated in meditation with offerings and a cabinet displaying his eight requisites. Nearby is located Tham Phuang where a large Buddha image seated under the Naga's hood is enshrined. Within the precincts of the temple, there are replicas of the

Four Buddhist Holy Places, which, in Northeastern Thailand, can only be seen here.

How to get there : follow Highway 22 (Sakon Nakhon - Udon Thani) for approximately 84 kms. to Amphoe Sawang Daen Din and turn left toward Amphoe Song Dao until reaching the Vessantara or Wetsandon Roundabouts. Turn right for about 5 kms. to Wat Tham Aphai Damrong Tham.

Phu Pha Lek National Park (อุทยานแห่งชาติภูผาเหล็ก)

Acquiring total area of 419,000,000 sq.m. the park covers are in Amphoe Song Dao, Waritchaphum, Kut Bak of Sakon Nakhon, Amphoe Wang Sam Mo or Udon Thani, Amphoe Somdet and Kham Muang of Kalasin. The park compound also acquires part of Phu Phan Range with Phu Ang So as its highest peak. Most area is blanketed with deciduous dipterocarp forest, mixed dipterocarp forest, dry evergreen forest, various kinds of bamboo and herbs. Wild hogs, barking deer, mouse deer and various birds are found.

Attractions on the peak of Phu Pha Lek Mountain, including cliffs and observatory, can be reached by car. The tower is 5.5 kms. from the park's head quarter, then tourist requires to trek to other attractions.

Attractions in the park include

Pha Suriyan (ผาสूरียันต์)

The towering cliff on the top of Phu Pha Lek offers nice view point and sun rise view.

Pha Dong Ko (ผาดงก่อ)

The cliff is situated on peak of Phu Pha Lek, part of Phu Phan Range. It is special with a huge rock at the cliff edge, almost falling down below. From the cliff, tourist can enjoy breath taking view of rugged mountains of Phu Phan Range, including Phu Pha Hak, Phu Mai, Phu Sak Lak in Amphoe Wang Sam Mo of Udon Thani.

Pha Nam Chok (ผาน้ำใจ)

High cliff on the peak of Phu Pha Lek offers view of Huai Huat Reservoir and overview of Udon Thani and Khon Kaen.

Pha Phak Wan Pre-historical Painting (ภาพเขียนก่อนประวัติศาสตร์ผาผักหวาน)

The 3,600 years old painting is on a big rock at Ban Phu Ta Kham, Tambon Tha Sila, 18 kms. from the park's headquarter.



Achan Wan Uttamo Museum

It features women standing in line and holding each other's shoulder.

Lan Usa Sawan (ลานอุษาสวรรค์)

The plateau, acquiring 1,550 rais area, is situated on the top of Phu Pha Lek. It comprises forest, mountain, rock and grassland, which looked like man-made garden. There is a number of wild flower around the area.

Dinosaur graveyard (สุสานไดโนเสาร์)

Dinosaur graveyard Lots of fossil are found at mid of Phu Pha Lek Mountain in Amphoe Song Dao, Sakon Nakhon and forest's edge of Phu Phan, Amphoe Kham Muang of Kalasin. Fossils of plant and petrified wood are also found.

Ho Song Dao (หอส่องดาว)

Ho Song Dao or the observatory is situated at 700 metre elevation above sea level on Phu Pha Lek's peak. By panoramic around, it is a good place to observe the star and meteor shower. Accommodation and camping group are available for the tourists. For more information, contact Phu Pha Lek National Park, Ban Tha Wat, Tambon Pathumwapi, Amphoe Song Dao, Sakon Nakhon 47190, or call the National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department at tel. 0 2562 0760 or visit www.dnp.go.th.

Amphoe Kut Bak

Nam Phung Dam (เขื่อนน้ำพุง)

The first rockfill dam in Northeast Thailand is 1,720 metres long and 40 metres high. The dam generates electricity and supply to people in Sakon Nakhon and Nakhon Phanom. His Majesty the King has presided over the opening ceremony on November 14, 1965. It is a nice, comfortable and tranquil peace.

How to get there: From Sakon Nakhon City, take highway 213. The dam is 37 kms. away, on the left.

Amphoe Kusuman

Thai So Cultural Centre (ศูนย์วัฒนธรรมไทยโส่) Located in the compound of Amphoe Kusuman office, 40 Kms. from Sakon Nakhon City via highway 22, the centre features tools of Thai

So, an ethnic group that migrated from the left side of Mekong River. There are also the board comparing Thai So and Thai language, in shape and phonetic aspects. More information can be reached at 0 4276 9052.

Amphoe Tao Ngoi

Phu Pha Yon National Park (อุทยานแห่งชาติภูผายล)

Situated on Phu Phan Mountain Range, the park acquires total area of 825 sq. kms. in Amphoe Khok Si Suphan, Tao Ngoi of Sakon Nakhon, Amphoe Nakae of Nakhon Phanom, Amphoe Dong Luang and Khamchai of Mukdahan.

Established to honor His Majesty the King, the park is set up on July 28, 1988. It features plateau and sandstone mountain, blanketed by deciduous dipterocarp forest, dry evergreen forest, hill evergreen forest. The trees found in the park include thingar, Lagerstroemia calyculata Kurz, Irvingia malayana. Wildlife found includes barking deer, sambar deer, Asiatic wild dog.

Attractions in the park include

Huai Huat Reservoir (อ่างเก็บน้ำห้วยหวด)

The reservoir is only 500 metres from the park's head quarter. It is created by the irrigation dam by the initiative of His Majesty the King. There is a rock in weird shape rock, by the pavilion on the right side of the reservoir. From there, tourist can see two falls cascade into the reservoir.

Namtok Kham Sang (น้ำตกคำน้ำสร้าง)

With the height of 25 metres, the highest falls in the park. It can be seen from the dam embarkment. The falls is 1.8 kms. from the park's headquarter.

Phu Pha Yon (ภูผายล)

The mountain has beautiful scenery. Its cliff houses carvings which can be dated back to over 3,000 years ago.

How to get there : Take highway 2339, turn left to the route Ban Na Ang - Muang Kham, via Ban Phon Bok, Ban Phon Paeng, to Ban Na Phang. This route is 5 kms. long from Amphoe Tao Ngoi. It can be accessed by car.

Pha Phaya Tao Ngoi (ผาพญาเต่างอย)

The cliff is 7 kms. from the park's headquarter via Ban Huai

Huat-Khok Klang Rd. There is rock in “Ngoi Tortoise” shape is going towards Phung Stream. The local believes that tortoise represents fertile land and name the village Ban Tao Ngoi.

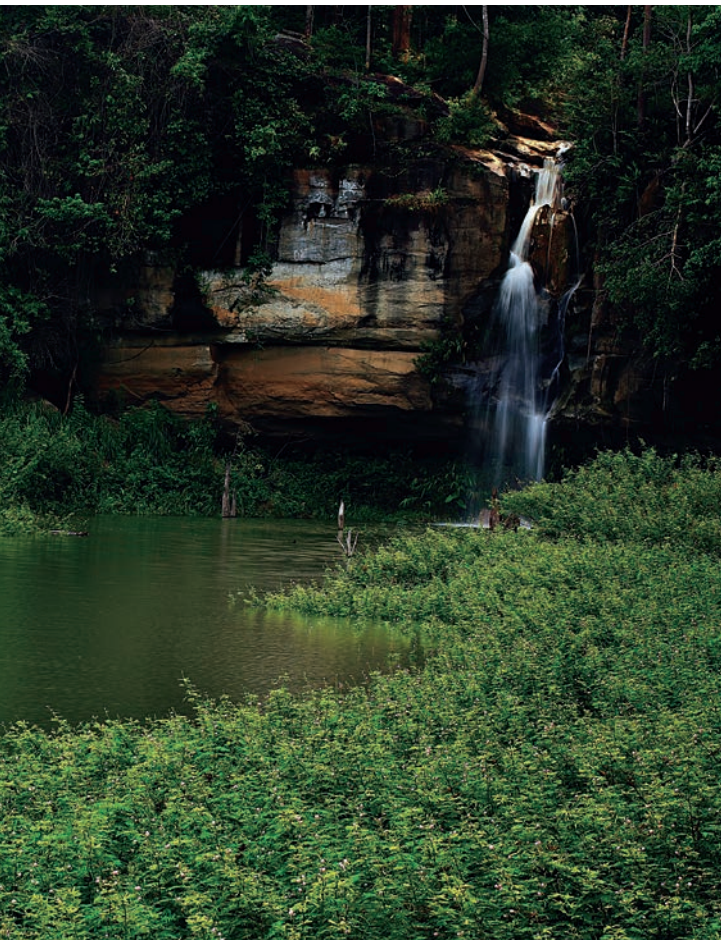
Lan Dusita (ลานดุสิตา)

The vast rock plain turns colourful in late rainy season when various flowers in tiny size are in full bloom. They include Dusita in purple, Kradum Ngoen, Soi Suwanna, En-A, Yat Nam Khang. Nature trail leads the tourist to enjoy the flower without stepping on it. Other attractions include Tham Hip Phu Pha Nang, Tham Saowapha, Dong Noi Reservoir, and Tham Phra Wet.



Accommodation and camping ground are available for tourist. For more information, contact Phu Pha Yon National Park, Amphoe Tao Ngoi, Sakon Nakhon 47260 tel. 0 4298 1057, 0 4272 6615 or the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department tel. 0 2562 0760 or visit www.dnp.go.th

How to get there : From Sakon Nakhon City, take Sakon Nakhon-Nakhon Phanom highway for 14 kms., turn right and keep going for other 12 kms. to Amphoe Tao Ngoi. From Tao Ngoi, keep going for other 6 kms. to the park. Another route is Sakon Nakhon-Kalasin. Take this route for 5 kms., turn left on highway 2339 to the park which is 15 kms. away.



Phu Pha Yon National Park

EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

Ruam Nam Chai Thai Sakon Fair and Red Cross Fair.

(งานรมน้ำใจไทยสากลและงานกาชาด) Held at the beginning of each year by the city hall, the fair comprises floats showing cultures and tradition of different ethnic groups in the province such as Phu Thai, So, Yo, Saek, Ka Loeng, Kula, Vietnamese and Chinese. The float parade starts from Ming Mueang Field at 2 p.m. and go via Sukkasem Rd. to the city hall. The other entertainments include folk culture contest, traditional dinner, and performances on stage.

So Ram Ruek Festival (งานเทศกาลใส่รำลึก) The festival to commemorate So ethnic group in held annually on the 4th waxing moon of March at Amphoe Kusuman. Traditional rites conducted by a number of So people will start in late morning. Around the venue, lots of local products will be put on sale.

Bun Mahachat Festival and Bun Bangfai or Rocket Festival, Amphoe Phang Khon (งานบุญมหาชาติและบุญบังไฟอำเภอพังโคน) The festivals are held annually in the first week of May. Its activities include local rocket contest, Mahachat Preying, Phang Khon Cuisine Festival, and the contest of local rocket parade.



Wax Castle Procession

Wax castle procession (งานประเพณีแห่ปราสาทผึ้ง) Held during the 12th-15th day of waxing moon in October to mark the end of Buddhist's Lent, the festival is an exciting showcase. On the night of 13th day, people will join hands in decorating wax castle at Ming Mueang Field where tourist can witness the process. The 14th day, beautiful wax castle from different temples will join the procession, roaming the municipality to Wat Phra That Choeng Chum Worawihan. Isan people believe that the wax will welcome Lord Buddha who comes back from the heaven to help all creatures on earth.

Boat races (งานประเพณีแข่งเรือ) Held synchronically with the wax castle procession, the ancient boat race will be held at Phang Thong Pond or Tha Nang Ap, Ban Tha Wat.

Visakha Bucha day festival (เทศกาลวันวิสาขบูชา) Held on the 15 lunar months 6, There are The lotus lantern parade, the greatest. Phra That Choeng Chum around the candle lit. Ceremonial parade of thousands of bales of rice. Excursions to justice. Enkkam ordained Ma. The exhibition shows the practice of meditation.

Asarnha Bucha Day at Song Dao (งานเทศกาลอาสาฬหะ สักการะสังเวชนีย) It is Held on every year at The temple "Wat Tham Puang" in Song Dao District where is simulated the birth place, First sermon of the Buddha, enlightened place, and death of the Buddha, one in the Northeastern of Thailand. Make merit, blessing, Walk with lighted candles in hand around them, take apart in Khun mak Beng and Beautiful Kom Bua Bucha parade.

Parade of Christmas Star Festival (งานเทศกาลแห่ดาวคริสต์มาส ชุมชนท่าแร่ จ. สกลนคร) Held during the Christmas season to celebrate the birth of Lord Jesus, at December 23 to 24 of each year at the Tha-rae community Amphur Muang Sakon Nakhon. The largest Christian community in Thailand. The star is a symbol of the coming birth of Jesus. The parade is a demonstration of the unity of Catholics, so this festival there is in Tha-rae community Sakon Nakhon only. Stars were decorated home, Christmas trees were decorated with sparkling lights and beautifully. The parade will be decorated with thousands of fire science and move around the Tha-rae community. There is also an activity sightseeing by a tram, old house Colonial architecture, street culture, painting

competition. On December 25 the parade will around the town of Sakon into the event for celebrate Christmas at the Catholic Mission Tharae - Nong Saeng.

Phonyangkham Festival (งานเทศกาลเนื้อโคขุนโพนยางคำ จ. สกลนคร) Best of the the Winter Festival of Sakon Nakhon province. Held around the end of November of each year at the Ming Maung Field Sakon Nakhon "Show love to the king at Phu Phan, with beautiful flowers, to the taste of KO-Khun beef, Mamao wine, under the stars this winter in Sakon Nakhon". An activities include Commemoration exhibition. The exhibition promoting the Ko-Khun beef of Phonyangkham , OTOP local product , taste of Khun beef and Mamao wine of Phuphan. Choose blue clothes quality, festival food, cowboy Night activities, shows the cowboy contest, recipes food of Phonyangkham, enjoy the folk song, local music and to see concerts by artists and celebrities.

LOCAL PRODUCTS AND SOUVENIRS

Ban Kut Na Kham Arts and Crafts Centre (ศูนย์ศิลปาชีพบ้านกุดนาขาม) Located in Ban Kut Na Kham, Tambon Charoen Sin, Amphoe Charoen Sin, the centre is production hub of ceramics, wood carving, silk weaving. Furthermore, the centre has demonstration for clay shaping and painting, showing the excellent craftsmanship and skill to product unique products for all Thai product lover.

Products from the centre are always displayed in many fair, both in the provinces and Bangkok.

The centre is open during 8.00 a.m to 4.30 p.m. from Tuesday to Saturday.

How to get there : From Sakon Nakhon city, take highway 22 (Sakon Nakhon-Udon Thani) for 84 kms. to Amphoe Sawang Daen Din, turn right on highway 2091, then 2280. Amphoe Charoen Sil is 23 kms.away.

Ban Chan Arts and Crafts Centre (ศูนย์ศิลปาชีพบ้านจาง) Located at Ban Chan, Tambon Muang, Amphoe Ban Muang, the centre is production base and training hub for weaving silk and local textile, as well as blacksmith, wood carving. High quality woven textile from this centre is quite well known. The centre is open daily.

How to get there : The centre is 126 kms. from Sakon Nakhon City. Take Sakon Nakhon-Phang Khon Rd., to Amphoe Phang Khon. Turn in to highway 222 to Ban Kham Ta Kla and then take highway 2324.

Ban Pan Mo (บ้านปั้นหม้อ) The pottery village Ban Chiang Khuea is in Tambon Chiang Khuea, Amphoe Muang, 15 kms. from Sakon Nakhon City via highway 22. The farmers here earn extra by pottery business. Tourist can enjoy shopping for value-for-money products in the village and along its entrance.



Ban Kut Na Kham Arts and Crafts Centre

Wha Yai and Ban Don Daeng Weaving Village (หมู่บ้านทอผ้าบ้านวาใหญ่ บ้านดอนแดง) Located in Amphoe Akat Amnuai, the villages are well known for woven cotton, silk and dye in “Khit style” or local style. All textiles are dyed in natural dye.

How to get there : The villages is 75 kms. from Sakon Nakhon City, take highway 2094.

Kritsada Mai Thai (กฤษฎาไหมไทย) Prem Prida Rd., tel. 0 4271 1697 (silk, garments, cotton cloth.)

Phutthasin Mai Thai (พุทธศิลป์ไหมไทย) Prem Prida Rd., tel. 0 42711548 (silk, garments, cotton cloth.)

Sot Si Mai Thai (สดศรีไหมไทย) 953/1 In front of Wat Phrathat Choeng Chum Charoen Mueang Rd., tel. 0-4271-1953 (Mat Mi Silk, Praewa Silk, an garments)



Sakon Nakhon City Gate

RECOMMENDED ONE-DAY PROGRAMME TO VISIT SAKON NAKHON

- Morning – Visit Sakon Nakhon City Gate, Phrathat Choeng Chum and Museum of Achan Man Phurithattha Tera at Wat Pa Sutthawat, Phu Phan Palace, Namtok Kham Hom and enjoy the nature of Phu Phan National Park.
- Afternoon – Pay homage to Museum of Achan Fan Acharo at Wat Pa Udom Somphon, Amphoe Phanna Nikhom, and visit Wat Kham Pramong.
- End of programme.

FACILITIES IN SAKON NAKHON

Accommodations

(The room rates may be changed, please check again before making a reservation)

Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon

Krong Thong (กรองทอง) 645/2 Charoen Mueang Road, Tel. 0 4271 1235. 15 rooms: 120-250 Baht.

Charoensuk (เจริญสุข) 635 Charoen Mueang Road, Tel. 0 4271 2916. 30 rooms: 120-300 Baht.

Chinachat (ชินาชาติ) 223/14 Mankhalai Road, Tel. 0 4271 1012. 27 rooms: 500 Baht

Dusit (ดุสิต) 1784 Yuwaphattana Road, Tel. 0 4271 1198-9, 0 4271 2200-1. 101 rooms: 500-4,000 Baht.

P.C. Palace (พี.ซี. พาเลซ) 1780/88 Khang Bueang Nong Sanom Road, Tel. 0 4273 3911, 0 4273 3722. 75 rooms: 300-350 Baht

Bunyakiat (บุญเกียรติ) 479 Liang Mueang Road, Tambon That Choeng Chum, Tel. 0 4274 3722. 30 room: 400-450 Baht

Phu Phan Place (ภูพานเพลส) 680 Nittayo Road (In front of Rajaphat Sakonnakhon University), Tel. 0 4271 6797-8, 0 4297 0096-100. 64 rooms: 500-600 Bath.

Sakon Grand Palace (สกลแกรนด์ พาเลซ) 383/14 ITU Road, Tel. 0 4271 4886-7, 0 4273 3491-2. 120 rooms: 580-2,800 Baht.

Sakon Hotel (สกลไฮเต็ล) 581/1 Charoen Mueang Road, 10 rooms: 120-180 Baht.

Araya (อารยะ) 1432 Kamchat Phai Road, Tel. 0 4271 1097.
26 rooms: 150-280 Baht.

Imperial Sakon (อิมพีเรียลสกล) 1892 Sukkasem Road. Tambon Thatchoengchum, Tel. 0 4271 1119, 0 4271 1887, 0 4271 3320.
100 rooms: 200-2,500 Baht.

M J De Majestic (เอ็ม เจ เดอะมาเจติก) 399 Mu 2 Khumueang Road, Tel. 0 4273 3771-4. 165 rooms: 450-5,600 Baht.

Amphoe Phang Khon

Thiam Chan (เทียมจันทร์) 7/5 Nittayo Road. 15 rooms: 120-200 Baht.

Amphoe Sawang Daen Din

Chom Dao & Resort (ชมดาว แอนด์ รีสอร์ท) 166 Mu 23 Nittayo Road (Sakon Nakhon-Udon Thani), Tambon Sawang Dean Din, Tel. 0 4272 2544-5. 19 rooms: 500-600 Baht.

Pretty (เพรตตี้) 108 Mu 11 Nittayo Road. Tel. 0 4272 1131.
20 rooms: 150-250 Baht.

Restaurants

Amphoe Mueang Sakon Nakhon

Green Corner (กรีนคอนเนอร์) 1173 Ratphattana Road, Tel. 0 4271 1073 (A La Carte Thai Food).

Ko Phai (กอไผ่) 348/4 Sukkasem Road, Tel. 0 4271 2235 (A La Carte Thai Food).

Krua Anothai (ครัวอโนทัย) 1709/16-17 Prem Prida Road, Tel. 0 4271 1542 (A La Carte Thai Food, Noodle).

Country Home (คันทรี่โฮม) 1691/11 Sakon Plaza.

Khruea Wan (เครือวัลย์) 600 Chaiphasuk Road, Tel. 0 4271 2233 (Thai Food, Noodle).

Tem Kham (เต็มคำ) 1446/15 Yuwaphattana Road, Tel. 0 4271 1566, 0 4271 3643 (A La Carte Thai Food, Vietnamese Food).

Pho Chai (พอใจ) 1308/10 Premprida Road (In front of Siam Rat Theatre), Tel. 0 4271 1767 (Thai Food, Chinese Food).

Mit Uppatham (มิตรอุปถัมภ์) 37 Sukkasem Road, Tel. 0 4271 1633 (Thai Food, North Eastern Food Style).

Ran Khao Tom 3 Deng (ร้านข้าวต้ม 3 เด้ง) 883 Chai Pha Suk Road, Tel: 08 5740 5928, 08 1601 3540

Lai Thai (ลายไทย) 374/1 Mu 13 Sakon Nakhon-Kalasin Road.

Luk Phai (ลูกไฟ) 1268/6 Kamchatphai Road, Tel. 0 4271 2545 (Thai Food, Chinese Food).

Wae Sai (แวร์ซายส์) 383/14 ITU Road (In Sakon Palace Hotel), Tel. 0 4271 4886-7 (Thai Food, Chinese Food, A La Carte Thai Food).

Sanom-ae (สนมเอก) Nong Sanom, Tel. 0 4271 2806.

Suan Rak (สวนรัก) 1865/15 Ratphattana Road, Tel. 0 4271 1783.

Suan Luek (สวนลึก) 241/8 Tambon Phattana Road, Tel. 0 4271 4072 (A La Carte Thai Food, Thai Spicy Salad, Fish).

Saban-nga (สะบันงา) 1782 Ratphattana Road, Tel. 0 4273 3428 (A La Carte Thai Food, North Eastern Food Style).

Suan Ahan Suan Thip (สวนอาหารสวนทิพย์) 190/3 Sakon Nakhon-Udon Thani Road, Tel. 0 4271 5188-9

Apha Ahan Thai (อาภาอาหารไทย) 243 Kamchatphai Road, Tel. 0 4271 2081 (Thai Food).

USEFUL CALLS

Sakon Nakhon Provincial Hall

Tel. 0 4271 1065,
0 4271 1763

Sakon Nakhon Hospital

Tel. 0 4271 1636,
0 4271 1615

Police Station

Tel. 0 4271 1878,
0 4271 1665,
0 4271 1506

Bus Terminal

Tel. 0 4271 2860

Tourist Police

Tel. 1155

Highway Police

Tel. 1193



Phu Thai Dance